

# Urban Forest Commission

## Meeting Minutes October 18, 2017

### **Attendance:**

Commissioners: Mike Pennington, Christine Penney, Beth Kleinke, Liz Johnson, Susan Stanich, Jim Lemmerman

City Staff: Clark Christenson, City Forester; Erik Birkeland, Ex-Officio

City Councilor Em Westerlund

### **Call to Order:**

The meeting started at 6:00.

### **Minute Approval:**

The minutes from the September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017, were approved.

### **Forester's Report**

#### EAB

1. The Parks Maintenance crew has begun removals. 80 Ash trees have been removed. They are making good progress. There haven't been any calls or complaints from citizens. It is the result of the successful community outreach plan that was implemented early in the process.
2. Cheryl Skafta reported on 2 grants that are going to City Council. They are:
  - A. A Minnesota Department of Agriculture reimbursable grant, in the amount of \$60,000, for preventative EAB related actions. The grant can be used to reimburse for the following; equipment, staff time, materials, and injections.
  - B. A Great Lakes Restoration grant, through the MN DNR, in the amount of \$175,000, to plant 500 trees to replace EAB removals.

### **New Business:**

#### New Meeting Protocol

In order for the UFC to conduct business in an efficient and productive manner; new meeting protocols were discussed and implemented. They are:

1. The Commission will follow Open Meeting Laws.
2. Meetings will include an approval of the meeting's agenda.
3. The agenda will include public comments at the beginning of the meeting. Speakers must sign up and will be limited to 3 minutes.
4. Separation will be maintained between the Commissioners and Citizens attending the meetings.

## MNSTAC Report

Jim Lemmerman reported on a Minnesota Shade Tree Advisory Committee joint meeting with the Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council that took place in Eau Claire WI. Urban forestry from both Minnesota and Wisconsin were discussed. The meeting highlighted the programs and methods that the city of Eau Claire use to manage their forest resources. They have three foresters on staff. They do all of their planting and cutting in-house. They are implementing sustainable practices by having artisans use the wood from tree removals. This is advantageous to the artists and the foresters; the artist receives free medium and the foresters save on labor and disposal costs.

For additional information for MNSTAC, their website is: [mnstac.org](http://mnstac.org)

## Old Business

### View Scape Policy

A subcommittee has been formed consisting of Mike Pennington, Jim Lemmerman, and Christine Penny to investigate the following:

1. Search for the resolution that passed ~2years ago addressing the Skyline Parkway View Scape.
2. Determine if that policy conflicts with the Unified Development Chapter.

### New Member Recruitment

1. Brandon Van Tassel, Program Manager for Duluth Stream Corps, has submitted an application to become a Commissioner.

### Comprehensive Plan

After reviewing the plan draft, there are differences between the new proposed plan and the existing plan. A draft of recommendations from the UFC will be circulated between the Commissioners for their comments and recommendations.

## Adjournment

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:07, m/s/c.